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First Class Mail

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THE VIEW FROM HERE

George Watson

Glen Hancock, National President of the John Howard Society, is quoted in an article in Imperial Oil Review as saying, "Seventy-five percent of the inmates in our prisons are there for thefts of less than \$500."

If this is true, and allowing the maximum \$500. for each prisoner, this means that 75% of prison inmates stole a maximum total of three and a quarter million dollars. The government, on the other hand, spends the sum of \$91,000,000 to punish these seventy-five percent. Every penitentiary inmate is serving at least a two-year sentence so that is a minimum of 182 million spent to punish them for stealing a maximum of three and a quarter million. Is there any wonder that the Law Reform Commission recommends other means of retribution than prison?

In the same article, Warren

Allmand, the Solicitor General, is quoted as saying, "Traditional incarceration, far from rehabilitating, makes the majority of offenders even more dangerous to society." This is true, but Mr. Allmand does nothing to change "traditional incarceration." Besides, old Warren has a tendency to say whatever he thinks a particular audience wants to hear. To put it bluntly, The Solicitor General is like the flag that flies at Expo ball games; he goes whichever way the wind is blowing.

Inmates at Archambault Institution, just outside of Montreal, went on strike for over three months in an attempt to have "contact visits" implemented at that prison. Why shouldn't they be allowed to hold their children; kiss their wives; hug their mothers? Where does the Solicitor General and prison authorities get the right to treat any in-

mate as a sub-human being? For security reasons? Crap! Before the prison guards at Millhaven had Donald Clark ousted as Director at that prison, inmates were permitted contact visits with their families. An inmate was "skin frisked" before and after his visit but they were willing to put up with that indignity in order to hold their loved ones. The inmates at Archambault agreed to skin frisks but were still denied this "privilege". Anyone acquainted with the ways that Canadian prisons are run are not surprised. In Canada, the Solicitor General doesn't tell prison guards how to run the jails, they tell him!

Most crimes committed take only a matter of minutes and after the completion of the crime, most criminals are more law-abiding than the ordinary citizen because they cannot afford to be arrested. Yet, when they are apprehended by the police, convicted in court and sentenced to prison - for those few minutes of law breaking - they are reduced to the status of sub-human by their keepers and are treated accordingly.

It is conceded, grudgingly, that there are some prison(3)

personnel that just want to get their day in and go home and don't hassle anyone. Unfortunately, there are also prison personnel that, although untrained and unfit themselves, believe their uniform makes them superior, morally, physically, and intellectually to their captives. There are many of these type of people in every prison. It is this type who are dictating policy to the Solicitor General.

Like Millhaven and New Westminster, Archambault has its tales of guard brutality, gassings and the oppressive use of segregation and dissociation, and like the other two prisons, old Warren isn't doing anything about it. That isn't quite true. He is passing new legislation whereby inmates will be staying longer in these prisons.

What makes the whole thing a farce is the way men are labelled "maximum security" risks. For example, two men, one, a criminal, and the other, a policeman, robbed two banks together near Ottawa. The criminal received 15 years and was sent to Millhaven, while the renegade cop received 5 years and was sent to Burrard Center in B.C. where he enjoy-

ed the same privileges as he had when free. But that is part of Canada's prison policy. Judges, politicians, policemen, financiers, etc., receive preferential treatment when they break the law. Prison personnel defer to them because these type lawbreakers are influential and have "clout" while the ordinary prisoner hasn't anyone to watch over him. No person, including Warren Allmand, takes the word of a prisoner over that of his keeper.

The purported reason for prisons is to "isolate the offender" or to "protect the public". We are isolated, in more ways than one, and if prisons want to ensure we remain isolated, let them encircle the prisons with army tanks and whatever else suits their fancy but just where do they get the right to practice inhumane and oppressive tactics against us? It is a case of "Might being Right" and everyone understands that and it is because of just that, that there is a recidivist rate of 80% in Canada.

If an inmate doesn't already know about "might being right" when he entered jail, he learns fast and adopts the same tactics when it is

his turn. Just look at the statistics of how many men are sent to prison for crimes of violence who previously had served a sentence for a non-violent crime.

Is the denial of making decisions for oneself protecting society? Does forbidding contact with loved ones protect society? Does oppression protect society? On the contrary, in the long run, these acts are going to be very detrimental to the very same people who are being "protected" now.

Nearly everyone agrees with the figure of 15% of inmates who are truly maximum security. If this is so, then why are approximately 50% of Canada's prison population in maximum security institutions? where they suffer not only the loss of their civil rights but also their human rights!

Inmates receive a maximum of \$1.00 per day for working; \$1.87 is allotted for meals and their clothing costs approximately \$100. per year. That is less than \$1,000 per year. Isn't anyone curious about where the other \$13,000 goes. They are all mouth about it costing \$14,000 per year but amazingly silent on how it is spent.

THE CHILDREN OF BELFAST

Merv Gracey

One cannot call Belfast a beautiful city, not by any stretch of the imagination. It is a depressing city, physically as well as mentally. The thick, grey smoke from countless open fires pours from the tiny chimneys, drifts across the grey-slatted rooftops, then slowly curls downward into the narrow, grey streets, attaching its daily veneer of grime to the brickwork of the homes below.

The seemingly endless row of tiny, red-bricked Victorian houses, joined together like so many beads on a string, and repeated with monotonous regularity over the entire city, were once hives of activity during the Industrial Revolution of the Nineteenth Century, but are now strangely silent. An air of melancholy and unreality seems to have settled in each and every home. People move cautiously about the street, their carefree, friendly

manner long gone, replaced with tension and ultra suspicion; nobody trusts anybody anymore; hopelessness is written on their faces.

The eyes of the children mirror the tragedy that has engulfed Belfast for almost seven years.

The children of any working class area, in any part of the world, go through their childhood with a mixture of pain and pleasure, tears and laughter; but for the children of Belfast, growing up seems to be one long, terrifying nightmare with no end in sight.

Cold statistics and casualty figures compiled by various groups and government departments can never show to what extent the children of the "troubled areas" of Belfast have suffered. Many have died as a result of terrorist bombings, others have died as they played in the streets, victims of the

trigger - happy gunmen, and many more have been cruelly and permanently maimed.

The older children, in the 12 to 14 year old group, have more or less accepted the violence as a way of life, and why not? Their parents accept it so why shouldn't they? They have grown old long before their time.

Where other boys in other countries collect and exchange postage stamps, coins, etc., the Belfast school boy is more than likely to have a collection of souvenirs of the vicious street fights which take place almost daily on the city streets. There are the rubber bullets fired by the British Army during street disturbances or a variety of empty tear-gas canisters which proliferate the streets after a sectarian riot, along with a collection of clubs, helmets and shields, lost by or stolen from, the police and army riot squads.

The violent traits shown by most of the older children did not appear overnight, for the seeds of sectarian hatred were sown in their minds almost from birth,

seeds that will inevitably bring forth a terrible harvest.

They are the children who have had the misfortune of being born into a hate-ridden society, torn apart by its own bigoted attitudes. Successive generations of Belfast children have had their innocence snatched away by ignorant parents eager to indoctrinate them with their own warped philosophies.

Centuries old grievances, political, religious, real and imaginary, are constantly being forced into receptive virgin minds, by mothers and fathers who were themselves subjected to the same indoctrinational process during their own childhood. The present generation has the added misfortune of not only having to listen to stories of past deeds, but having to witness the horrors at first hand, as, and when, they occur on their own streets.

Many of the children will not be seeing their fathers for a long time. Their last memory of their father was of seeing him dragged from his bed in the middle of the night by the security

forces, and bundled into a military vehicle, to be taken to the political prison on the outskirts of Belfast. There are also many children who will never see their fathers again, for the sectarian assassin strikes at any time and in any place. There is no shortage of orphans in Belfast.

For the Protestant and Catholic children, the journey to and from their respective schools can be fraught with hidden dangers. The chance of being caught in the cross - fire between warring factions, or the innocent looking car parked at the side of the road which may contain a bomb, or the prospect of getting involved in a rock-throwing fight with children of the opposite religion, for these minor altercations between the children have the uncanny habit of turning into a full-scale sectarian battle involving their parents, the police and the British Military.

Trips to the movies or to visit the shopping centre in downtown Belfast are rare; for the most part the childrens' playgrounds are the tiny living - rooms of their homes. The television

set is their only distraction from the violence outside. Their conversation centers around the latest shootings and bombings of the previous night, for it is at night that the twenty-four hour terror cycle is at its peak, when the gunmen and the bombers stalk the streets. The childrens' sleep is constantly disturbed. The warring factions try to justify their insane orgy of slaughter and destruction, by claiming that they are doing it to free old Ireland from British rule on the one side, and to defend and protect religious liberty on the other.

Try to explain that to a terrified infant, crying on his bed, while outside on the streets, evil men are setting fire to their neighbours' houses, or when he's almost suffocating from the clouds of tear gas swirling around the streets and seeping into his bedroom through ill-fitting window frames of his room. Bullets and tear-gas do not discriminate. Yes, the children suffer, while the politicians and church leaders thrash around in a sea of indecisiveness, afraid to speak out, for fear of offending their respective constit-

uents and congregations, afraid to put forward any constructive solution to the problem, in case it might lead to a lowering of their own personal status within their bigoted communities.

I wonder if the men responsible for building the Belfast street barricades back in 1969, ever stopped to think of the mental barricades that they were erecting in their childrens' minds? Somehow, I don't think they did then - or ever will!

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BRING BACK OUR NUN

Every Tuesday and Friday afternoon and Thursday evening, Sister Loretta McCarthy would enter the gates of Collins Bay and spread a little cheer.

For some reason, Sister Loretta is no longer with us. She has suffered the same fate as a priest, Jerry McCormick, who tried to help inmates.

Jerry McCormick was the priest at Millhaven, and at the time of the KP riot, was the only person who cared about what was happening to the inmates. The

administration at Millhaven and the Catholic Church both told Jerry McCormick to "stick to religious matters" but Jerry McCormick was as concerned with what was happening to human beings physically as well as spiritually. The result was he was removed from Millhaven and resigned from the priesthood.

Not being an R.C., I don't know how Sister Loretta was in a religious manner, but as a person, she was a kind, witty and warm lady.

Like Jerry McCormick, she cared what happened to inmates and this probably led to her recall by the R.C. Church.

In today's society, the trend is away from religion. If churches are to survive, they will do so only with people like Sister Loretta and Jerry McCormick but as soon as people like them get involved, they are removed.

The villain in these two cases are the R.C. Church aided and abetted by the Canadian Penitentiary Service. What harm can a little nun do? Bring her back.

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ON PUNISHMENT

John David Prince

Albert Camus (The Outsider), an existentialist, wrote "Once the craving stops, punishment ceases to exist." How effective then can punishment be if we are able to reduce the craving and thus the effects of punishment? The answer to this probably can be explained, that it is contingent upon the organism of which punishment is directed at. At any rate, behaviorists believe we can shape and control human behaviour by the use of reinforcements and punishments, but Edgar Freidenberg (Ramparts, Dec-Jan. 1975) asks the question, "Is the pigeon always right?" Behaviourists will understand the implications of such a question, but my question is, "Once a person becomes aware of the process of actions and reactions, could he not, and in fact, does he not control the significance of the stimulus and/or response? If this is so, could you not

then control the effect of punishment; could you not "reduce the craving, and stop punishment?" Let's digress for awhile.

Plato (The Republic) stated, "When men have both done and suffered injustice, they think they had better agree among themselves... Hence, there arises laws and mutual covenants." Beccaria (1880) claimed that people weary of living in a continual state of war (a sociological phenomenon rather than an actual battle), and of enjoying a security rendered useless by the uncertainty of keeping it, sacrifice a part so they might enjoy the rest in "peace and safety."

Now, it becomes necessary to instill motives in the population so that they will not usurp the laws of the state, and thus are born "tangible motives of 9 of punishment," which ideal-

ly "prevent" the "despotic spirit" from plunging our society into chaos, or a state of lawlessness. Ideally, of course, Christian philosophy ought to cope with our sinful ways, but alas, it has failed miserably.

The learned and respected persons of the Law Reform Commission saw wisely to recommend punishments that were not so pernicious as the present ones, and suggested through Working Paper No. 11, that we closely examine our practice of punishment.

Several years ago, a man named Aristotle (Politics) claimed that punishments were more "just" as the protection of society increased, and held more sacred the security and freedom of its people. He wrote, "Just punishments and chastisements do indeed spring from a good "principle", but they are good only because we cannot do without them - it would be better that neither individuals nor states should need anything of the sort." Punishments which exceed what is necessary for public security are unjust, and injustices infringe upon human happiness. This

infringement effects everyone. Where one gives more power to the state to punish, you also give up more of your freedom, and in the doing, you may very well undo the "golden thread" which runs throughout the principle of justice.

The present trend in public consciousness is, a "craving" for more severe punishments for the "despotic spirits" who would violate our laws. Their thinking focuses upon the concept of, the more severe the punishment, the more likelihood the threat will sanctify and protect their 'rights'. Hegel (Philosophy of Right) writes, "To base a justification of punishment on threat is, to liken it to the master who lifts his stick to his dog. It is to treat a man like a dog, instead of with freedom and respect due him as a human being. The proposed sanctions in the Peace and Security Act (The retention or abolishment of the death penalty section) directs its attention to using the "threat of punishment" to give sanctity and value to our lifestyle. We are gradually reducing the freedom we held as individuals to the state, and are relying on false promises to pro-

vide us with peace and security. Punishments will not do this for our culture. Many years ago, a man attempted to take the sins of the world upon his shoulders, and he accepted the punishment of death for the sins of others. Along side of him at Calvary were two thieves. One thief, while speaking to the other, claimed he should accept his punishment since he deserved it. One wonders what he was there for, but we do know why Jesus was there, and we can question whether or not, our society is any better for his death. (For many people, Christ is not dead). Whether or not, the punishment was effective?

Punishment does exist, and does inflict pain among many persons in our community and prisons. Perhaps, only historians will be able to judge the effectiveness of creating Bills which focus upon creating a peaceful and secure society through the threat of severe punishments. Bettelheim, Menninger, Frankl, Wolpe, Meyer, Zimbardo and McConnell, among many, know the effects of punishment, but so do the unsophisticated persons imprisoned within the Canadian prison system. Perhaps, unlike a Camus character, "The craving still exists!"

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CANADIAN JUSTICE - THE FINEST THAT MONEY CAN BUY

Irving Kott, a stock broker, was convicted in court in Toronto of conspiracy to defraud and was fined \$500,000 or serve five years in prison. He was allowed one year to come up with the \$500,000

It was Clay Powell, Ontario's assistant deputy attorney - general who suggested the \$500,000 fine.

Just recently, a Joyceville inmate won an appeal from his penitentiary sentence. His partner and himself had stolen 50 cents. But of course, by the time his appeal had been heard, he had spent months in the penitentiary.

A comparative fine to Mr. Kott's case would have been \$1.00 but the penitentiary inmate wasn't an influential person. Isn't that right, Mr. Powell?

IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER

Larry Buttle

After reading the high - light of the new Peace and Security Bill, I didn't know whether to laugh or break down sobbing. Laugh, because I felt here was the greatest joke ever played on us, both insiders and outsiders by the Canadian government, or cry, because I knew that it wasn't any joke and a lot of people are going to be hurt. People like us, our families, our wives and our girlfriends.

Apparently, the government and the National Parole Board are starting to call a spade, a spade, although no one seems to know why. Nowhere is the word "rehabilitation" seen, or anything that can be construed as such. One can't help but notice, just by its absence, the fact that rehabilitation, whether real or imaginary, is something the government refuses to deal with. I wonder if it is because there is no such

thing as rehabilitation or reformation in Canada's prisons, or is it because it's far easier (where votes are concerned) to have our prisons run on a punitive basis (they always have been, but now it is out in the open) rather than on a corrective model.

For example, according to the new Bill, the National Parole Board will no longer be able to grant paroles by exception. Of course, for most of us, it's an unknown thing, but what about the first offenders with no record? What about the people from the larger urban centers who receive sentences of ten or twelve years for a first offence? If anyone thinks that sentences like that are not possible in big cities, my own case is an example. I received ten years as a first offender.

When it is realized that people charged with the same type of offence in a

rural area receive smaller sentences, probably due to a lack of pressure from the local police force unlike the large urban centres where the police greatly influence the judges, the removal of parole by exception seems to be aimed at inmates from the cities. And what about those people in jail who are fully prepared to re-enter society after one or two years of imprisonment? In effect, that person is being punished simply because there is a law that says he must serve one-third or seven years, whichever comes first, before he is eligible. There used to be parole by exception for cases like this, either the person was ready a long time before his eligibility date or his/her sentence was ridiculously large, so much so, that he/she was given parole by exception. In other words, people were given a chance to prove themselves. I'm not saying that all people, whether first offenders or not, were prime candidates for this type of parole. As a matter of fact, very few are fortunate enough to have an early parole hearing.

Regardless of how many, or how few, we have to ask

"Is the government being fair with this new legislation?" I believe the answer is NO! In essence, all the government has done is make our criminal justice system more punitive.

Just to show where Warren Allmand's head is at, just recently, he has been accused of intervening in the course of justice by helping one of his confreres, Jean Paul Marchand, the Minister of Transport, who had his driving license suspended for one year for failing to remain at the scene of an accident. Ironical that he should be the Minister of Transport! That was five months or so ago, and apparently Mr. Allmand spoke to, or wrote to, the Chairman of the Parole Board, Mr. Outerbridge, and before anyone knew it, Mr. Marchand had his license back! Isn't that a case of parole by exception? Or favouritism? But with the "Judges Affair" one thing it isn't, is surprising.

If it was because Allmand is a nice guy, then why wouldn't he see anyone at Collins Bay besides the Committee when he was here to discuss the Peace and Security Legislation? Leaves

something to think about.

INQUIRING

REPORTER

Wayne Hurlburt

(Starting with this issue, each month we are going to ask inmate opinions on subjects that effect them.)

This months question is:

"What is your opinion of the legislation that would replace capital punishment with a minimum of 25 years imprisonment before parole eligibility?"

Gary Barnes:

"It is going to cause a lot of bitterness and guys are going to feel that they have nothing to lose. It removes all hope. When inmates were charged with murder before, they could see the end of their imprisonment after ten years or so, but, twenty-five years? They are better off dead. If a person comes to jail at 35 years of age, he will be 60 before he is even eligible for parole. They had better change the prison system along with the sentence or all I can see is trouble because who is going to put up with 25 years in a place like Millhaven and their games?"

Dennis Hale:

"I don't think it will work. Anyone facing a 25-year minimum sentence in a place like Canada's maximum security penitentiaries is not going to hesitate to kill again. The Solicitor General has no more idea of what occurs in his prisons than I do of what occurs in Parliament. What incentive is there for any prisoner when he knows that no matter what he does, he has to serve a minimum of 25 years? Conversely, why should he obey anyone? Good behaviour isn't going to get him out of jail any sooner, so why should he obey anyone?"

Hanging someone is more humane than keeping him locked up for 25 years. I would not want to be around when his 25 year sentence is over and have him angry at me."

Allan Badenoch:

There is very little differ-

ence between the rope and 25 years. One is quick and the other is a slow death. If I were given the choice, I would take the rope. What has a person to lose to kill again if he is serving 25 years? A penitentiary filled with guys serving these kind of sentences would be tension - filled. Specially if they were mixed with men serving shorter sentences. With a 25-year sentence, I think a lot of people will commit suicide. Men serving 25 years will end up as vegetables with no future after being locked up for that length of time.

Dave Campbell:

How does this sound, death penalty optional? Not only is the deed wrong but so is the method of punishment.

I can think of a lot of easier ways of dying than by hanging. If society says "who cares how he dies, dead is dead," then they are admitting the method is wrong as well as the deed.

I would much prefer to die in a local brothel or drown myself in a tub of champagne. Unfortunately, we haven't any brothels inside prison walls, nor do we have tubs of champagne. So what can we have, How about the lat-

est issue of Penthouse, a 26 ounce bottle of Canadian Club, a cyanide pill and a time limit of three hours? Would society scoff at such a method? You're damn right they would because there isn't any violence involved, no stretching of the neck; no time for remorse and no scream of terror. Society would consider it too humane with not enough pain and mental torture and would probably complain that the government was "pampering" the criminal in his last moments on earth. Much would also be heard of how there wasn't any deterrent to others contemplating murder in the future. I can just hear the Roman Catholic Church yell. Catholics do not condone suicide. What the hell is the difference, dead is dead, right? Malarkey. The deed is bad enough but the method of punishment is worse.

Gallup polls, news media of all types and citizens on talk shows are all on the capital punishment bandwagon, either pro or con. Statistics show the majority are in favour of retention. These opinions are as medieval and barbaric as the deed itself. If this is what society prescribes as being a "just punishment" and adopts "an eye for an

eye" attitude, then society had better get ready for some real action. Can you picture a desperate person when he or she adopts the "what the hell, I'm going to die anyway" attitude?

How can one honestly feel that by killing an alleged murderer, they are absolved of any guilt and are justified because it is all done "according to law"?

I refuse to believe that society can close their eyes to the fact that killing does not deter killing. For example, if during a bank robbery, I happen to shoot someone dead, either by accident, or otherwise, and the bank is surrounded by the police making any chance of escape impossible, if I know that when I am captured, I am going to be hanged, why shouldn't I adopt the attitude, "what the hell is the difference, I'm going to die anyway so I'll kill as many of them as I can - including innocent bystanders?"

What have the staunch retent ionists got to say to that? What???

Dave Brault:

Actually, I'm not in favour of either one. I don't feel

there is anybody righteous enough to condemn any man to death. Having spent most of my life in jail and knowing fairly well how the system works, I've come to the conclusion that they can't rehabilitate people under the present system whether the person is serving 2 or 25 years. Change has to come from the individual. If given a choice, I would likely choose the 25 years. There is still that slim hope of getting out some time.

Paul DeGuire:

I think the new legislation is inhuman. If the people on the street think they have problems in prisons at present, wait until there are a lot of men serving 25 years before being eligible for parole. In a society which is supposedly progressive, how can they come up with a backward piece of legislation like the so-called "Peace and Security" Bill?

What I would like to know is what kind of people do they think the prisoners will be after 25 years in prison? If and when this is passed, we will be hearing of the consequences for many years.

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THE WAY I SEE IT

James Edwards

Foreign Leaders of any country are invariably pictured in the press of another, in an unfavorable light, either outright or through subtle innuendo; hence, Idi Amin, President, dictator, tyrant, buffoon, (adjective dependent on whether one's reading fare is Time, Newsweek, Toronto Star or Globe and Mail) is, foremost, the former heavyweight boxing champion of Uganda; Isabel Peron, deposed President of Argentina, is a former chorus girl; Agostinho Neto, leader of the Marxist faction now ruling Angola, remains a poet.

These characteristical anecdotes are true; however, that they are true, doesn't legitimatize their ill-usage by the so-called Western press, who attribute any policy failure or diplomatic blunder directly to their erstwhile occupations, and any success or strict adherence to the diplomatic amenities of oc-

curing despite their erstwhile occupation.

No press takes this self-righteous breath-beating to greater heights than the American, which is glaringly obvious when one measures that army of incompetents, rank opportunists, thieves, troglodytes - those as a whole who would be dismissed outright as unsuitable for any official post above that of street cleaner or dog catcher in the few civilized countries of the world (Britain comes to mind), but who are quadrennially paraded before the American electorate as aspiring for the national leadership, and because they are, they are immediately invested with a dignity, virtue, probity and wisdom that they never had or will ever acquire - and who at this very moment has as its leading Republican contenders for this leadership for the national disgrace, so termed a presidential election Ronald Reagan, boob tube

cowboy and right-wing political reactionary; lackey running dog (eh Mao) of the well-heeled; and Gerald Ford, erstwhile middle-line backer-centre for the University of Michigan Wolverines, Godson to Richard Nixon, and whose only claim to fame is his blandness. He spent twenty-five years in Congress incognito, without initiating a single piece of legislation.

And less one is inclined to think that this dupe can as the pugilist, the chorine, and poet, on occasions rise above what they once were, and, in most instances still are, listed below are the cowboy reactionary's solutions to the "issues" most troubling the American electorate in this year of the national farce.

THE ECONOMY: The cowboy reactionary, champion of the free market, Reagan, who knows that one's belief in the free market is dictated by, and is in inverse proportion to how much of this free market he controls, is taking the hard line on the economy. A balanced budget, he says, is the answer to the nation's economic woes; is the tool needed to restore America's economy to its former heights.

Free enterprise, he continues, is the answer to the unemployment situation. However, he ruefully admits there will be suffering in the employment sector until the market frees itself from the shackles of government intervention and hires the twelve million unemployed, but a balanced budget will do it! And what is his grandiose scheme for balancing the budget? that will, he assures the ill-balanced, over-employed fat cats he speaks before, restore the economy and eradicate unemployment? His scheme simply consists of cutting 90 billion dollars from the Social Services (i.e. Welfare, Social Security, Medicaid, Aid to Education, School Lunch Programs, Farm and Postal Subsidies, etc.) However, in line with conservative ideology, he has also proposed an increase in the military budget to protect this free market.

Protect it from whom? Since it is free? From the elderly, the ignorant, children crying for their lunch, the farmers and mail men---the very people who will be affected by the balanced budget, and who incidentally, make up 80% of the American electorate.

which leaves Reagan the vote of the silent majority, whom he professes to champion, but because they are silent, do not count, (it is the vociferous minorities who are heard in the American mobocracy) and that of the military, who will be too occupied guarding his residence from the hordes of people who wish to retain their social services, to vote; and, possibly, Richard Nixon, but Nixon's vote is not a certainty, as Reagan has made a passing reference to the escalating costs of Federal pensions.

Foreign Policy: - That, in his moment, includes detente, Africa and the Panama Canal.

Under the slogan: PUT A COWBOY'S FINGER ON THE NUCLEAR TRIGGER. Reagan has promised to man the helm of the gun boats he orders down the Panama Canal, expediently ignoring that the Canal is militarily insignificant to the United State's security and economically unsound. The Canal hasn't turned a profit in years, and none is projected for the future. (I also must mention

that he red-neckedly ignores the fact that the Canal is not America's.

It is time to meet the Russians eyeball to eyeball (or nuke to nuke) says Reagan, and the time to start is in Africa. Perhaps, continues this free marketeer, America should cut off wheat supplies to Russia unless they stop intervening in Africa.

Since then, however, he has realized this blunder and backed down with "No one on the outside without access to information about the negotiations going on in this international chess game can speak with authority about the African situation - - - and, echoing a fellow Republican, "What I said is not what I mean't."

However, what he mean't was, in assurance to American motherhood, to have no fear of him sending her son off in full battle regalia to fight for the rights of a few savage blacks (a euphemism) in Africa; not while she, in pants suit, safety helmet and hair curlers, American flag pinned over her heart, mop handle in one hand, rock in the other, must stand in front of

ACROSS

1. Fish
5. Record the speed
9. Conform
14. ---- de camp
15. Where India is
16. Ledger Page
17. Sort of overseer
(2 words)
19. Hauled
20. French School
21. Make a stitch
23. Pinkish
24. Was a con game decoy
27. Mend
29. Masonic doorkeepers
(Var)
31. Stun with noise
35. Cargo unit
37. David's weapon
39. Sad song
40. Biblical son
42. Let fall out
44. Asian nation
45. Lacquer ingredient
47. Converse
49. PST plus one hour
50. Seafood item
52. Audience's shout
54. Malevolent
56. Painful joint
(2 words)
59. Tartness
62. Female equine
64. -- --- man to another
65. Pierre -----
Fr. traitor
67. Tropical spider
70. Range crest
71. Much adored person
72. Customer
73. Small plant shoot
74. Salamander

75. Favorites

DOWN

1. Medical patients
2. Tie
3. Dexterity
4. Truly
5. Restaurant check
6. Equal: Prefix
7. Be unsuccessful
8. Comforted
9. Ship section
10. Deader than a

11. Counter-
tenor
12. Pastry items
13. W. Indies bird
18. Author H.G. -----
22. Large amount
informal
25. Congers
26. Dull people
slang
28. Primary color
30. Wading bird
32. Kind of dwelling
2 words
33. Entire persons
34. Lair
35. Eddo
36. Comply with orders
38. Valleys
41. Literary
intelligentsia
43. Mexican dish
46. State: Abbr.
48. Sacred Islam text
51. Clear
53. Recover from toil
(2 words)

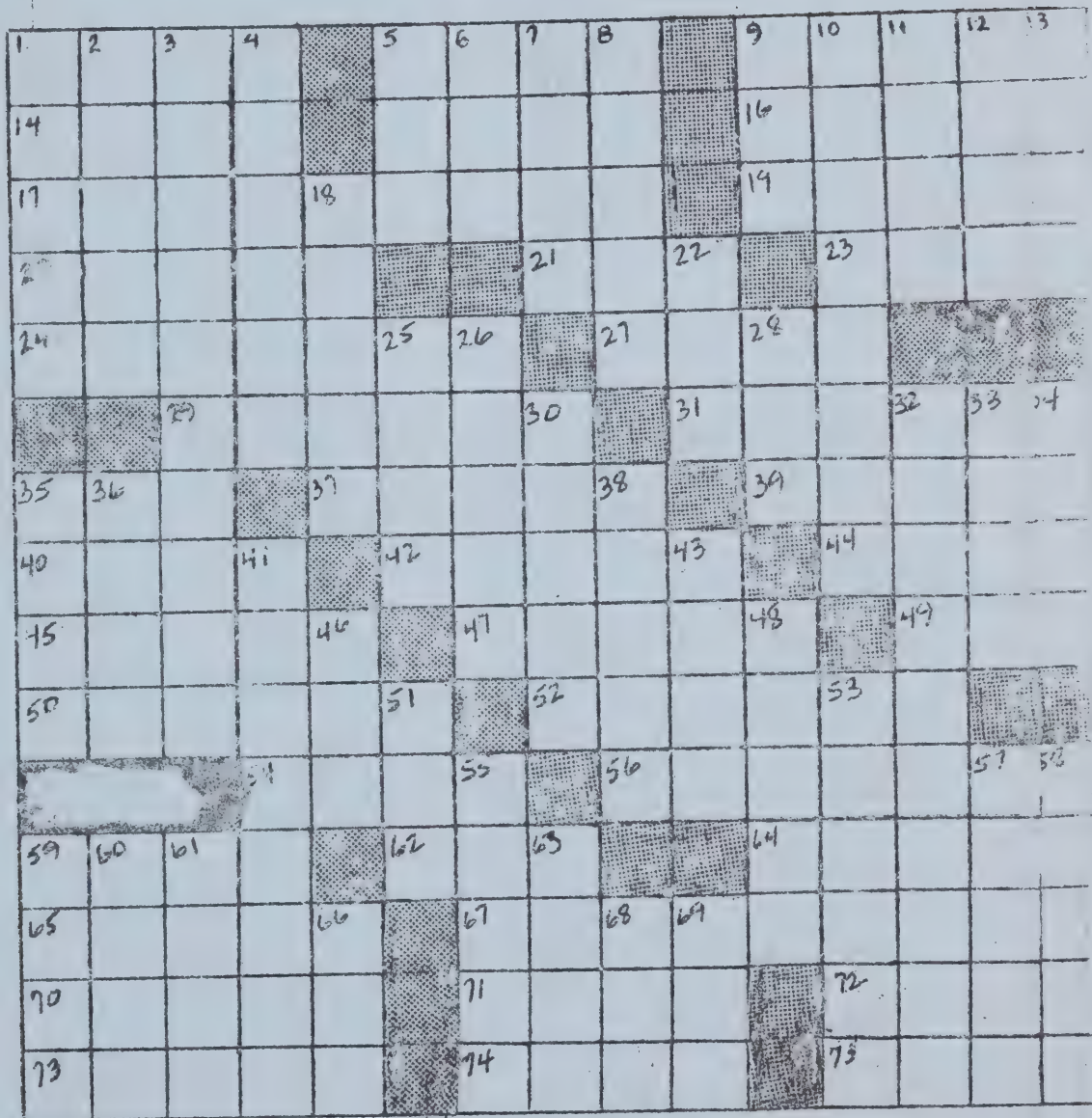
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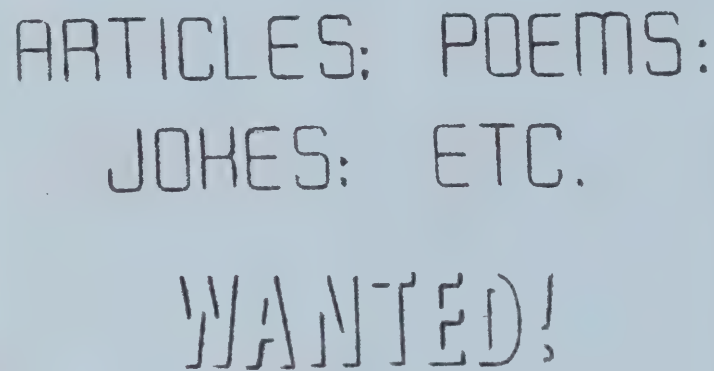
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ARTICLES: POEMS:
JOKES: ETC.
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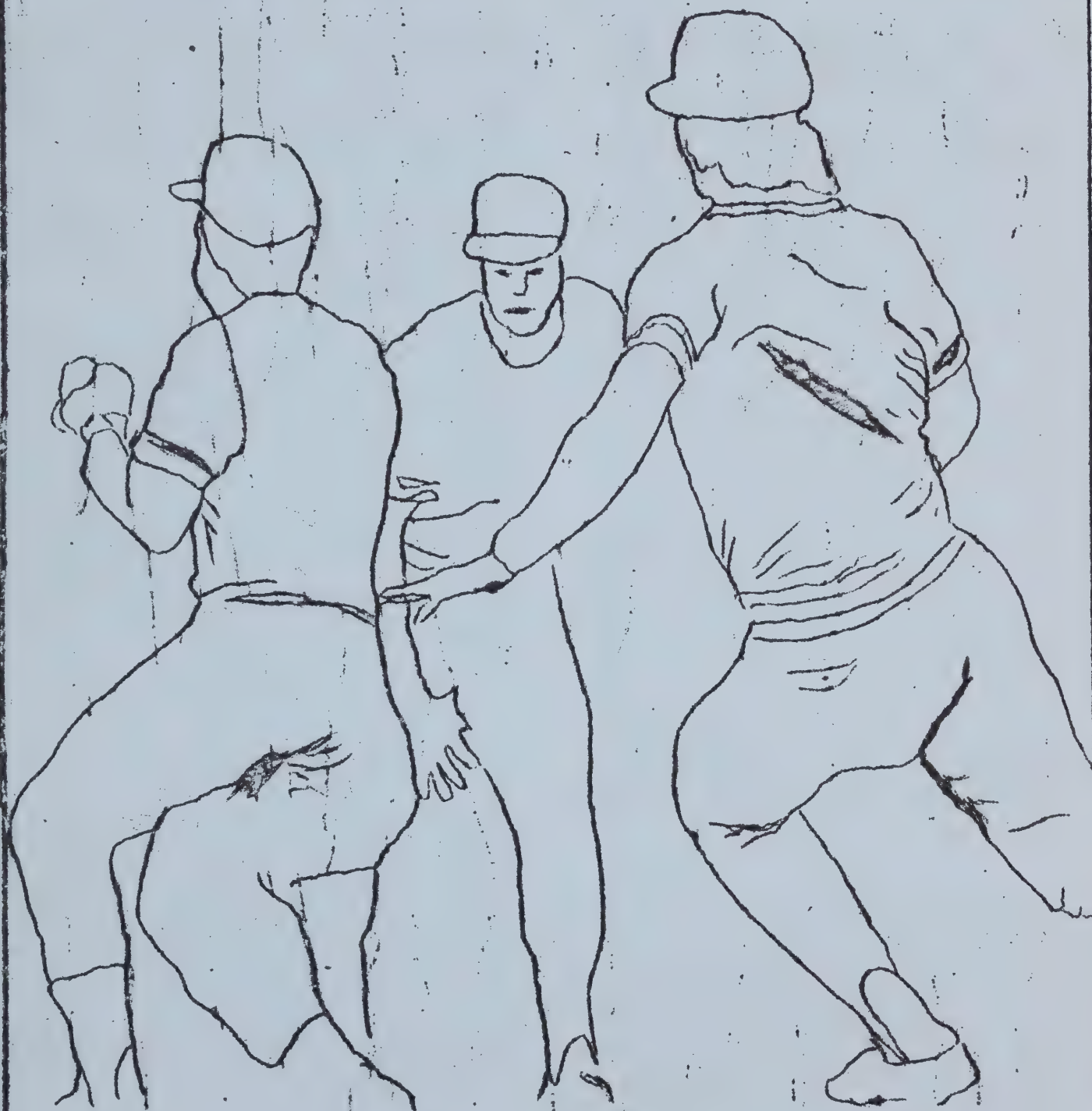
The Avatar is a prisoner's publication and is a medium for inmates and interested people on the outside to air their views.

Inmates wanting to contribute to the Avatar can drop their material in the Avatar box on the Strip.

Subscribers are invited to send material for printing. We would also like their opinions.

Send your letters to:

The Editor,
Avatar,
P.O. Box 190,
Kingston, Ontario.



MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

In the League Opener over on the Minor League Diamond, the game was anything but a squeaker as the Dodgers bombed the Pirates 25 to 5.

Besides pitching a strong game, Rick Beaudoin added a home run and 2 singles and scored four times in leading his team to victory. Another heavy bat was supplied by Bailey who hit two home runs and a double and had 4 RBI'S.

John Atkinson had 2 singles and scored a run in a losing cause. Losing pitcher Oliver hit a triple and struck out two Dodgers.

Beaudoin struck out eight Pirates while picking up his first win of the young season.

+ + + + +

Rick Beaudoin continued to come up strong both offensively and defensively as he led the Dodgers to their second straight victory in a 14-6 win over the Reds in the Red's opener. Beaudoin

had a double, three singles and scored twice. Davis had two doubles and a single and Jerry Dewling added two singles for the winners.

In picking up his second straight victory, Beaudoin only fanned one batter.

For the Reds, Bennett had two hits and scored once and Kirk Peters accounted for two runs with a double in the seventh inning.

Losing pitcher Ted Bulloch, struck out three Dodgers while recording his first loss of the season.

+ + + + +

NOTICE

The Commissioner of Baseball this year is Midge Pallister and anyone wishing to become involved in any way with baseball should contact him.

Umpires are especially needed.

+ + + + +

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

The Major Leagues got under way for 1976 with the Mets squaring off against the Yankees and the game ending in a 6-6 tie.

The Yankees under the management of Bobby Young, couldn't hold on to a 5-run lead as the Mets, on good hitting from the entire team, crept up and tied the game in the fifth inning on a home run by Dave Thurston.

The Yankees scored 5 times in the third inning on hits by Hurlburt and R. Robinson and a couple of Met errors.

+ + + + +

In the second game of the season, good pitching highlighted the Expo's first game of the year as Teddy Woods, pitching a 3-hitter, also was responsible for the only run of the game when he hit a home run in the second inning. The final score: 1-0 for the Expos.

Dick Thibodeau also pitched

a strong game in a losing cause. He gave up only two hits while striking out 11 Expos. In addition, Thibodeau had one of the 3 hits for the Yankees.

+ + + + +

EASTERN WELDERS EDGE SAINTS 5-4

In the Saints second game of the season, Eastern Welders edged them by a score of 5 to 4.

The Saints were leading by a score of 4 to 2 going into the top of the seventh inning when Eastern Welders erupted for 3 runs to take the lead which they kept.

In the bottom of the seventh inning, winning pitcher Jim Bradden of the Welders, held the Saints to a single by Danny Robinson.

Dave Gilroy, Bob Ferguson, Jim Bradden and Rod Leeder each had two hits for the winners, with the pitcher,

Jim Bradden knocking in the winning run.

Teddy Woods, the losing pitcher was pitching a good game but in the top of the seventh inning, facing the last three men in the batting order, he gave up a single to the first batter, walked the next batter and hit the third one, loading the bases, which lead to the Saints defeat. Teddy hit a home run for the Saints in the third inning.

+ + + + +

PLANE'S CONCRETE - 6
SAINTS - 2

The Saints lost their third consecutive game of the young season when Plane's Concrote, a new entry in the Circle Fastball League, defeated then by the score of 6 to 2.

Jumping on losing pitcher Teddy Woods for four runs in an inning and two-thirds, Plane's Concrete added two more runs in the bottom of the sixth inning off Leo Smith who replaced Woods in the second inning.

Third baseman Brad McDonald and centre fielder Bernie Fargo led the Concrete men

to victory with two hits each.

Winning pitcher Steve Lockridge struck out nine of the Saints while walking one batter.

Robbie Robinson hit a home-run for the Saints which accounted for one run and Danny Robinson hit a sacrifice fly scoring Wayne Hurlburt from third base for the Saints other run.

Losing pitcher, Teddy Woods is now 0-3 for the season.

+ + + + +

SAINTS DEFEAT MANOR 2-0

The Saints won their first game of the year when they defeated Lakeview Manor 2-0.

Strong pitching by Teddy Woods, excellent fielding by Wayne Hurlburt, Leo Smith and Ivan Busky, and the hitting of Bill Robinson led the Saints to their victory over last year's League Champions.

Scrappy Scott, the pride of Cabbagetown, scored the winning run after he received a walk, was sacrificed to second base by Don Ellis and came home on Robinson's base hit.

POETRY



WHAT IS A SWEETHEART?

A sweetheart is someone who gives you more happiness than you ever knew existed, more companionship than you ever dreamed of, more love than you possibly could deserve....

A sweetheart is someone whose smile lights up the whole world, whose touch makes you warm all over, whose voice is music to your ears...

A sweetheart is someone you didn't meet soon enough, can't be with often enough, and must have close beside you forever and ever...

Unknown

REFLECTIONS OF HATE

As everybody knows,
Nobody likes a mouse.
One comes into my cell at night,
Just to browse about.

He's just a little mouse,
He really means no harm.
All he does is eat the bugs,
That are crawling all around.

Some day I'll catch that little mouse,
And put him in a cage,
And then he'll know what it's like,
To be locked up and full of hate.

And when I let him go,
He won't come back any more.
And I won't find any bread crumbs,
Upon my nice, clean floor.

"Spud" Doucette

(Spud caught his mouse and caged him
but being caged himself, he felt sorry
for the mouse and released him)

BARS OF LOVE

Bars of love, bars of hate,
Take your pick, I'll open the gate.
Bars of love, you'll be with me,
Bars of hate, you'll never be free.

Bars of love, bars of hate,
Are bars of prisons, but we can choose,
Bars of hate are a cold, steel gate,
Pick bars of love, how can you lose?

So my darling, all I can say,
Whichever one you pick, you'll never be free.
If you choose their bars, you're there to stay,
But if you pick mine, your punishment is me!

Barbara Kiroff

(Mrs Kiroff is the wife of a Collins Bay
inmate.)

THE WHITE MAN AND HIS BIBLE

Many, many moons ago,
When the white man hit these shores,
The red man loved his country,
For he had all kinds of fish and game,

But the white man told him, "Brother,
Let us give you a guiding hand,"
So the red man got the bible,
And the white man got the land.

The white man takes gold and oil,
He also drives flashy cars.
The red man gets the welfare,

Yes brothers, we have
joined the white man's band.
For we got the bible,
And he got the land.

We have read your bible,
We have read it through and through,
But we shall give it back to you.
'Cause we know that when
You have nothing else to sack,
You'll be coming around,
To take your bible back.....

(Reprinted from "Off The Wall", the
prison publication at Saskatchewan
Penitentiary).



JOKE

PAGE



The actor pleaded with the agent to at least see his act. "My act is different-look - I fly." Then he lifted his arms and flew around the room and landed on the desk.

"Okay," said the agent, "so you can imitate birds -what else can you do?"

+ + + + +

"Marta," Mrs Davis said to her maid, "my husband is having an affair with his secretary."

"I don't believe it," answered the maid. "You're just saying that to make me jealous."

+ + + + +

The minister was leaving the church to go to a different parish. "I'm so sorry you're going," cried a little old lady as she said goodbye. "I never knew what sin was until you came here."

+ + + + +

Victor Mature and Jim Backus took advantage of a break in the filming of a historical picture to take care of some personal business downtown. It was a errand, so they stayed dressed in their Roman gladiator costumes-complete with tunic, armour, helmet and swords. On the way back to the studio, the two towering gladiators stopped at a little neighbourhood bar. Dumbfounded by the sight of them, the bartender didn't move. "What's the matter?" asked Mature, "Don't you serve members of the armed forces?"

+ + + + +

The pedestrian screamed at the reckless driver: "What's the matter with you - are you blind?" And the driver answered: "What do you mean blind - I hit you, didn't I?"

+ + + + +

"I hear you come from a tough family."

"Are you kidding? My kid brother, Tony, once slapped Al Capone right in the kisser."

"I'd like to shake hands with your kid brother."

"Are you kidding - do you think we're going to dig him up just for that?"

+ + + + +

Comedian Rodney Dangerfield says his cousin went to a psychiatrist because he felt he was ugly.

"The psychiatrist almost had my cousin convinced he wasn't ugly," Dangerfield said, "but he spoiled it all by making him lay on the couch - face down."

+ + + + +

"Why don't you settle this case out of court?" asked the judge of the two men before him.

"That's just what we were doing," replied one fellow, "when the police came and interfered."

+ + + + +

An old maid rang the fire alarm and twenty firemen responded. When they arr-

ived, she said: "There's no fire, so nineteen of you can go back."

+ + + + +

A young married couple purchased a new car which they treated with tender loving care. One day, the husband backed the car into their garage and knocked the trim off the right tail-light. Damage was slight, and he immediately had it repaired. A week later, the same thing happened, and he was embarrassed at the thought of bringing the car back to the garage again. His loving wife said: "Just say that I did it this time, Dear."

"But," the husband replied, "that's what I told them last time."

+ + + + +

An Englishman roused by a Scot's scorn of his race, protested that he was born an Englishman and hoped to die an Englishman.

"Man," scoffed the Scot, "have ye nae ambition?"

+ + + + +

"What is a dope ring?"

"Six Newfies sitting in a circle."

MILLHAVEN INQUIRY

(Reprinted from April Issue of Law Union News)

On Nov. 3, 1975, Millhaven guards gassed some inmates, then placed them in segregation in order to quell a disturbance at that institution. The incident raised protests and as a result, Ms Inger Hansen, Correctional Investigator, was appointed to inquire into the matter. The terms of reference under which she was limited to were: 1. Investigating events leading up to and subsequent to the use of gas and force, and 2. to investigate whether the directives, divisional instructions and standing orders were followed and to suggest improvements. However, it was apparent from the outset that she was interested in carrying out an in - depth examination of the general functioning of Millhaven. Her report will ultimately go to Solicitor General Warren Allmand.

The hearing lasted 22 days consisted of testimony from both guards and inmates. Law Union members Paul Cope-

land, David Cole and Alan Manson attended on behalf of those inmates who wished to be represented by counsel. They were assisted by Queen's Law students George Asquith and Ron Wilson.

The evidence of events on Nov. 3rd indicated that inmates were to each individually take a shower between the hours of 6 & 8 p.m. However, the procedure was abruptly cut off at 7:45 and three men were denied their showers. There was evidence that this tactic had been used before by the guards as a means of harassing the inmates. Because inmates had been punished if they complained on previous occasions, all the inmates on the range decided to protest on behalf of those who were denied showers. Each was still locked in a separate cell and they protested by shouting and banging on the doors. At this point, the guards came and removed two men to segregation. In the process,

a scuffle ensued and the locked-up men continued to protest. Five to eight guards (testimony differs) then came with gas masks and gassed five inmates in their cells. Evidence was given that the guards intended to gas one as the instigator of the process and the others were gassed indiscriminately. Some of the gas instruments used was CNX5 Crowd Disburser, which as the name implies is to be used only in open areas to control crowds. (The men were in 11' x 6' cells). The guards then took four of the gassed men and placed them in segregation. The fifth was left in his cell but he was at no advantage because the gas (or more accurately fine particles) would be recirculated every time he moved. In effect, he was being continuously gassed for days. The six men now in the "hole" were stripped and left in the cold for 10 to 12 hours with no blankets or bedding.

To understand the events of Nov. 3, it is necessary to explain incidents which had taken place some days previous. On that occasion, a number of guards had assaulted an inmate at the showers, breaking his dental

plate. Another inmate was shackled and manacled with his hands behind his back chained to his feet. He was left on the floor like this and had to relieve himself as best he could. Even the Prison Director admitted that this procedure was entirely punitive unless to prevent a possible suicide. These incidents help explain the environment of discontent and rebellion on Nov. 3.

Segregation or dissociation is a debilitating process. The inmate is isolated in a cell for 23½ hours per day with ½ hour only for exercise. He is permitted some hobbycrafts and books where available. There is no education and no work.

Punitive dissociation is invoked for serious institutional offences (assaults, threats against guards) as well as trivial ones (having contraband in ones cell.) Protective segregation is given to those inmates who would be endangered if left in the prison population e.g. sexual offenders. Most invidious though, is administrative dissociation which is in the discretion of the prison administrators and is used when deemed necessary for the "good order and

discipline of the institution." In practice, this is used to punish the alleged leaders of prison strikes. When an inmate is charged with such an "offence", he is not given the opportunity to rebut the evidence. Indeed, the evidence itself is second or even third hand. There is no review of the decision to segregate. Only cursory monthly reviews before prison staff occur afterwards. At the hearing, the prison director slipped when discussing one such inmate when he stated that there was no point in letting him out as he would do the same thing (organizing) again. Finally, there is voluntary dissociation, or "quiet time", where the inmate chooses to segregate himself to avoid prison tensions. However, all segregated inmates are subjected to the same conditions whether there for punitive reasons, for protection or voluntarily.

After discussions with some of the inmates involved, Lawyers Copeland, Manson and Cole made the following submissions to the inquiry:

(A) The events of Nov. 3rd indicated that gas was indiscriminately used, physical force was improperly

applied, and gas equipment was improperly authorized;

(B) It is necessary to establish a permanent outside body to investigate allegations of wrongdoing on the part of guards;

(C) Administrative dissociation is simply a political use of segregation and should be abolished. Voluntary segregation should be continued but those who choose it shouldn't be locked up. In the alternative, a monthly segregation review board should be reconstituted to provide for the presence of independent personnel and ensure that the rules of natural justice are followed;

(D) There is need for an inmates grievance committee to represent the legitimate grievances of inmates. The present grievance procedure leaves the inmate to fight the administration alone. Decisions are often delayed for months and are often unsatisfactory. The resultant discontent leads to hunger strikes, work stoppages and protests.

(E) The proposal by many of correctional staff that a "super maximum institution" be built at Millhaven to

isolate "difficult" inmates amounts to nothing more than political repression of activists and should be refused.

In conclusion, there is some room for optimism that the inquiry might be helpful. As noted earlier, the investigator, Ms Hansen, was open to hearing submissions on all aspects of the Millhaven Institution. Ultimately, her report will be accepted or rejected by the Solicitor General's department. They in turn are sensitive to public opinion around prisoners' issues which is not very sympathetic these days. However, the report, if publicized, should indicate that repression at Millhaven is too harsh for the public's taste.

Further, much of the opposition to change comes from the correctional staff and their union. But they are demoralized and fragmented as indicated by their testimony which was characterized by gross inconsistencies, internal bickering and the reluctance to accept responsibility or take initiative. Hopefully, the report will deal with this question and rebut their opposition to any liberalization of procedures at the institution.

TO PROTECT AND SERVE??

Mrs. Gertrude Winston of Chicago called the police for protection against her husband, who she claimed was coming to get her with a gun. But the police ended up killing her themselves. John E. Killacky, chief of the Criminal Investigations Division blamed the accident on a "tragic series of circumstances."

Three plainclothes investigators arrived at the Winston apartment building. One of them, Thomas Feery, drew his gun in the first-floor hallway but his gun slipped from his hand and went off as it hit the floor. The bullet struck another policeman, Joseph Digiacomo in the shoulder. The third policeman, Dan Fitzgerald, heard the shot and saw Digiacomo fall. At the same time, he saw a figure standing in an open second-floor doorway above them, and thinking that this figure had fired the shot, took aim and fired, killing Mrs. Winston. Chief Killacky said Fitzgerald "reacted as any reasonable policeman would." It all happened in seconds and no disciplinary action would be taken.

I guess Mrs Winston is lucky her husband didn't find her?

school building and defend it against the rights of a busload of black children who are residents of the city she lives in.

And with respect to the wheat blunder, and having forgotten that the Soviets are not singing several stanzas of America the Beautiful for the wheat, but paying for it in bucks, long green cash on the barrelhead---reverent terms to all free marketeers, Reagan now says, that wheat is not the proper weapon, but intimates that he knows what weapon to use and will reveal its capability in his inaugural speech. (It seems that he will sacrifice anything to contain Soviet aggression except the farm vote). He has also forgotten, this witch hunting student of communism, that Lenin said, when it comes time to hang the last capitalist, two more will crop up vieing for the sale of the rope.

Moreover, he has forgotten an occupational hazard, this forgetting, for one seeking national office, that America never offers more than its "moral support to any liberation effort, and yet is "appall-

ingly shocked" (America leads the world in shock) when liberationists accept not only the Soviet Unions' and China's moral support, but their, more important, AK-47s as well. Indeed, America generally sides with the more oppressive factions under the CIA non-sequitur that it is easier to induce a fascist dictatorship to move from the right to center than to induce a leftist regime from the left to center. But in fact, what America looks for, in offering aid, of any kind, is stability, and America is in the business of business. And what political situation is more conducive to business than a fascist dictatorship? Dealing with one man, so to speak, providing he has his thumb on a cheap and docile labour force.

Reagan's greatest asset in this campaign is his smooth opportunism; he is a master of the non sequitur, remarkably adept at charming the resolutely red-neck crowds he speaks before, into believing that some undefined "they" are the lone beneficiaries of "their" tax dollars through the varied social programs and has promised to end

them. If he were to succeed to the Presidency, (which he won't) and to carry out the myriad and antithetical and varied campaign pledges he has made, there wouldn't be a city block in America he could enter with safety.

His campaign lacks sincerity, expedience is his canon. In the tobacco growing counties of Kentucky he promised to seek repeal of the congressional law banning the advertisement of cigarettes on T.V. In Boston, he promised an end to school busing. In Detroit, he chided Congress for setting such a high auto emission level. In Texas, he defended the Oil Depletion Allowance. . . And his expediency goes on and on. Pick the region of the country and the cowboy from the Actors Guild caters to the most visceral emotions affecting it---and only caters, there is no substance to any of his campaigning. And that there isn't, seems to be discerned by only a few. And if the gentleman were asked to provide some substance, he would be at a loss and retire to even providing less.

But as Reagan comes across

with that get-tough, shoot-from-the-hip style so beloved by red necks, they recognize him as, and have made him their own. They won't be enough, however, to swirl him into the oval office. The new majority Reagan speaks of leading is the same shrinking red neck minority that is passing from the American landscape faster than the country's Eagle. But they are the most vocal, and primary time, is their time. The Republican convention will produce a different story, and if not, most certainly, the general election will.

(Space doesn't permit me to give the centre-middle line backers antidotes, but his are no more encouraging than the cowboy's; indeed, they are similar, and similarity is a disease of American politics--one candidate is generally indistinguishable from another).

+ + + + +

It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues.

- Abraham Lincoln -

Nothing is harder to do than secretly stub your toe.

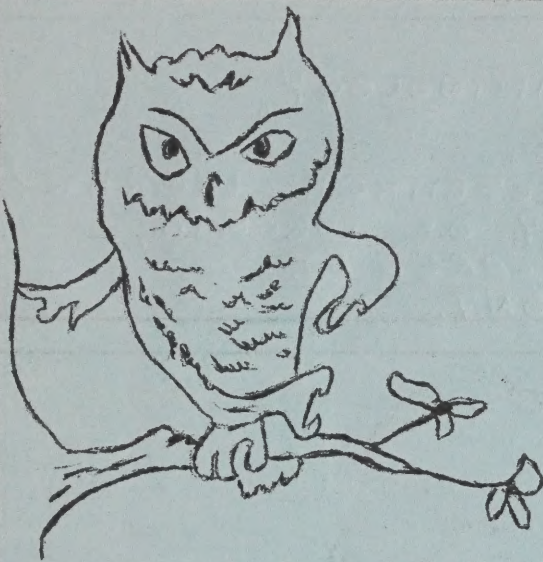
- Franklin P. Jones -

Dear Ann Landers,

I'm writing to tell you my problem. It seems I have been married to a sex maniac for the past twelve years. He makes love to me regardless of what I am doing — ironing, washing dishes, house-keeping, etc. I would like to know if

there is something
to prevent this. Please
advise me with your
hand.

Yours truly,
Franklin P. Jones



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